

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS, TOLERANCE LEVELS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT RATINGS

Common Name	20-Year Height (feet)	Spacing Within Rows	Growth Rate ¹	Tolerance Ratings ²		Saline/ Soils Tolerance	Wildlife Ratings ³				Comments
				Tolerance-- Min. Precip. (inches)	Alkali		Birds		Mammals		
							Nesting	Food	Cover	Browse	
SHRUBS											
Blue-leaf Honeysuckle	8	4-8	M	F-12	F	E	E	G	P	Resistant to witches-broom aphid. Fruit readily consumed by most birds.	
Buffaloberry	10	4-8	M	E-9	E	E	E	E	E	Native; thorny, very hardy. Forms thickets. Fruit makes excellent jelly.	
Caragana	12	4-8	R	E-9	G	E	F	F	P	Our hardiest shrub. Excellent drought tolerance & rapid growth. Great for windrows.	
Centennial Cotoneaster	10	4-10	M	G-10	F	E	E	F	P	Large, attractive hardy shrub. Fruit is bright red in late summer. May be fire blight resistant.	
Chokecherry	10	4-8	M	G-10	F	E	E	E	F	Native. Used for wildlife habitat & erosion control. Suckers to form thickets.	
Drummond Booth, Native Shrub Willows	6-12	2-8	R	P-20	F	E	F	G	G	Native streamside species mixes from Western Montana. Use for streambank stabilization, fisheries, and wildlife habitat.	
Golden Currant	6	4-8	M	G-11	F	G	G	F	G	Native. Rapid growth rate. Drought & cold tolerant. Used for wildlife & windbreaks.	
Lilac	6	4-8	M	G-10	F	E	P	E	P	Used in windbreaks & wildlife habitat. Showy purple flowers. Long-lived. Suckers.	
Lilac, Late	8	4-8	M	G-11	F	G	P	G	P	Non-suckering, pinkish flower. Use in windbreaks. Not as drought-tolerant a Lilac.	
Nanking Cherry	7	4-6	M	G-10	F	E	E	F	E	Used on leeward side of windbreak. Fruit edible & good for jelly. Showy flowers.	
Plum, American	10	4-8	M	G-11	F	E	G	G	E	Large fruit provides excellent wildlife food and is edible. Suckers to form thickets.	
Peking Cotoneaster	6	4-6	M	G-10	G	E	E	F	P	Use in outer rows of windbreaks. Excellent wildlife plant. Susceptible to fire blight.	
Purple Willow	10	6-10	R	P-20	F	E	P	F	E	Used for streamside stabilization or with high water table. May require irrigation.	
Red-Osier Dogwood	7	4-6	R	P-18	P	E	F	E	G	Native. Deep red bark. Used for wildlife & stabilization. Usually needs irrigation.	
Sagebrush, Silver	4	3-6	S	G-10	F	G	F	P	G	A native sage. Will grow in most well-drained soils. Good for big game winter range.	
Sand Cherry	3	2-6	R	G-10	F	G	E	F	F	Small, short lived shrub. Excellent bird plant. Fruit excellent for jellies & jams.	
Serviceberry	10	4-6	M	F-12	F	G	E	G	G	Native; preferred wildlife food plant. Showy white blossom.	
Silverberry	6	4-6	M	G-12	F	G	G	F	F	Native bottomland species. Very aggressive spreader. Excellent for erosion control.	
Skunkbush Sumac	8	4-6	S	E-9	F	E	F	E	G	Very drought-tolerant once established. Excellent wildlife habitat. Slow grower.	
Willow, Sandbar	10	3-6	R	P-15	F	G	F	G	G	Grown from native collections. Drought-tolerant for willow, but requires regular water source.	
Willow, Sandbar (YS Cty.)	10	3-6	R	F-14	G	G	F	G	G	Grown from a slightly saline collection site which was atypically dry for willows.	
Woods Rose	6	3-6	M	F-14	P	E	E	E	E	Showy pink flowers. Used for wildlife habitat. Yellows in high alkali soils. Suckers.	
Wyoming Big Sagebrush	3	3-6	S	E-9	G	F	P	F	E	Very cold and drought tolerant native shrub. Valuable winter browse.	
DECIDUOUS TREES											
Amur Maple	15	4-10	M	G-12	P	F	P	F	F	Brilliant fall color; adapts well to all but heavy or alkaline soils.	
Arnold Hawthorne	15	6-10	M	G-13	F	E	E	G	G	Vigorous, dense small tree. Excellent for wildlife & windbreaks. Adapts to heavy soils.	
Aspen	20	6-10	M	P-15	P	G	P	G	F	Forms thickets from root suckers. Showy fall color. Best at mid to high elevations.	
Black Cherry	15	6-12	M	G-12	F	F	G	F	F	Nice ovoid shape; unpalatable to grasshoppers. Not adapted to alkaline soils.	

¹ Growth rate: R = Rapid, M = Moderate, S = Slow.

² Relative Tolerance Ratings: E = Excellent, G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor. Drought tolerance = relative ability to tolerate drought conditions; minimum precipitation = least amount of annual precipitation that can be expected to result in satisfactory survival and growth in windbreaks with cultivation, planted in well-drained soils with good moisture-holding capacity and gently sloping terrain. Saline/Alkali Tolerance = relative ability to tolerate saline/alkali soil conditions.

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						Nesting	Food	Cover	Browse	
Cottonwoods	45	8-14	R	P-16	F	F	P	P	F	Noted for rapid growth on moist sites. Used for windbreaks, stabilization and wildlife.
Golden Willow	25	8-14	R	F-14	F	F	F	F	F	Large, graceful, fast-growing tree. Needs irrigation. Twigs are golden yellow in color.
Green Ash	18	8-14	M	E-10	F	G	F	F	G	Drought, cold and alkaline resistant. Used in windbreaks. Very adaptable.
Hackberry, Common	20	8-12	M	E-10	G	F	F	F	F	Long-lived, hardy tree similar to elm. Heat, drought and disease resistant.
Prairie Sky Poplar	45	6-10	R	F-14	F	F	P	P	F	Cottonless, drought and cold tolerant. Narrow upright form similar to Lombardi Poplar. Excellent, rapid growing poplar selection for windbreaks.
Russian Olive	17	6-12	R	E-8	E	E	E	F	P	For windbreaks & wildlife. Drought- & alkali-tolerant. Fast growth, short-lived.
Siberian Crabapple	15	6-12	M	G-12	F	F	G	F	F	Showy spring flowers, small edible fruits. Good fall/winter bird food. Very adaptable.
Siberian Elm	25	8-14	R	G-12	G	F	F	P	P	Very drought-tolerant. Rapid growth rate; very short-lived. Disease prone.
Sitka Alder	20	6-10	M	F-15	F	G	P	F	F	Multistem mountain species. Nitrogen fixer. Adapts to poor soils. Prefers moist sites.
EVERGREENS										
Austrian Pine	17	8-14	M-R	F-12	F	G	F	F	P	Excellent windbreak tree. Adapts to many soil types.
Black Hills Spruce	12	8-14	S	G-10	F	E	F	P	P	Similar to Blue Spruce. Slower growing, but better cold tolerance. Med. height.
Colorado Blue Spruce	15	8-14	M	G-10	P	E	F	P	P	Excellent for windbreaks; dense crown. Few are actually blue. Slow initial growth.
Douglas-fir	15		M	F-14	P	G	F	P	P	Higher moisture needs for good growth, but survives drought periods. Used in windbreaks and reforestation.
Engelmann Spruce	15	8-14	M	P-15	P	E	F	G	P	Used mostly for reforestation and reclamation of wet, high elevation sites.
Limber Pine	10	6-12	S	G-10	P	G	F	F	P	Very hardy and slow growing. Use where other evergreens can't survive.
Lodgepole Pine	17	8-14	M	G-10	F	G	P	F	P	Used mostly for reforestation and reclamation of dry, high altitude sites.
Ponderosa Pine	17	8-14	M	G-10	F	G	F	F	P	Most drought-tolerant pine. Used for windbreaks, reforestation. Very long-lived.
Rocky Mountain Juniper	12	6-12	M	E-8	F	G	G	G	E	Excellent in wildlife plantings. Very drought and alkali tolerant. Transplants well.
Scotch Pine	17	8-14	M-R	G-10	P	P	G	P	P	Relatively rapid growth. Adapts to most sites. Used for Christmas trees, windbreaks.
Grand fir	12	8-14	S	P-18	P	E	F	G	P	Popular Christmas tree. Grows best on low altitude, moist sites in Western Montana.
Western Larch	17	8-14	M-R	P-15	P	F	F	P	P	Used mostly for reforestation plantings in Western Montana. Drops needles in winter.
White Pine	15	8-14	M	P-18	P	G	F	P	P	Excellent reforestation species. High stumpage value. Grown from blister-rust resistant seed source.
GRASSES										
Basin Wildrye	6	3-6	M	G-10	G	E	G	P	F	Large, cool season bunchgrass. Excellent for upland game birds.
Beardless Wildrye	2	2-6	R	F-12	E	P	F	P	F	Used to establish cover on saline soils. Spreads vigorously by rhizomes. Sod farming
Bluebranch Wheatgrass	3	2-6	M	E-10	F	P	P	P	F	Cool season bunchgrass. Use for stabilization. Very palatable.
Creeping Foxtail	2	2-6	M	F-12	G	P	P	P	F	Cool season sod former. Use in low, wet areas to establish cover. Saline tolerant.
Rough Fescue	2	2-6	M	F-13	P	P	P	P	E	Native, densely-tufted bunch grass. A key elk winter browse species.

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